II

HOUSE COMMITTEE.

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—" I have to announce for the information of the Council that the hon. the President has made the following nominations in regard to the House Committee :—

(1) Rao Bahadur C. Natesa Mudaliyar.

(2) Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao.

III

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL.

The SECRETARY laid on the table * G.O. No. 55, Railway, dated 10th December 1923, regarding the election of two representatives of the Legislative Council to the Local Advisory Committee for the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway.

III-A

The SECRETARY laid on the table † Report of the Retrenchment Committee, Volumes I and II.

IV

MOTION ON A MATTER OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

SUSPENSION OF THE ENHANCED RATE OF LAND REVENUE IN THE TANJORE DISTRICT.

The discussion on Motion No. 12 ‡ moved by Mr. S. Muttayya Mudaliyar was then resumed.

Mr. C. MARUTHAVANAM PILLAI :—" Sir, in supporting the Resolution moved by my hon. Friend Mr Muttayya Mudaliyar I wish to make a few observations on the land revenue settlement in the Madras Presidency generally, and in the Tanjore district particularly. Sir, ever since the Munro Settlement of this Province, which denied to us the great blessings that Lord Cornwallis conferred upon the fortunate people of Bengal, it is needless to say what amount of worry, inconvenience and loss has been caused to both the rich and poor ryots of Madras by the system of resettlement at the end of every thirty years. Imagine for one moment the uncertainty that the ryots are suffering under, as regards the return of their investments in the lands, when on the mere suspicion of an increased yield, they are made to bear an increase in assessment. This process of the increase of land revenue at every resettlement is harsh ; and from all appearances no great pains seem to have been taken to investigate into the actual ability or otherwise of the ryots to pay the increased taxation. The increase of 25 per cent of the land kist ordered to be levied upon the ryots of Tanjore bears ample testimony to the above remarks. The basis for this increase is not properly worked out. The soil of Tanjore district is no virgin soil. Years of cultivation has reduced its productive power and any amount of artificial manuring cannot restore the original fertility. That the maximum

11-15 a.m.

* Appendix (vide pages 554—557 infra).

† Printed separately.

‡ 12. That this Council recommends to the Government that the collection of land revenue at the enhanced rate in the Tanjore district from January 1924 be suspended for one year at least till the principles of land revenue settlement are embodied in legislation.